SEARCH FOR DELICIOUS

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Synopsis

In this humorous tale of human folly a prime minister of a kingdom is making a dictionary. Instead of defining words the dictionary is made up of best examples of the word. An argument breaks out as to what is the best word to describe delicious. Gaylen, the prime minister’s apprentice is sent out from the castle to survey all the people in the kingdom as to what they consider delicious. Hemlock uses the disagreement to his advantage by telling the people in the kingdom that the King wants to keep them from having their most delicious foods. Hemlock also dams up the kingdom’s water supply so that the people are becoming more and more angry with the king. Gaylen with the help of woldweller, dwarfs, and a mermaid, outwits Hemlock in the end and the kingdom is saved. But as the prime minister moves on to a new word for his dictionary, the final scene is a new argument.
1. Give two examples the author used at the beginning of the story that showed this was not a realistic novel.

2. How did Ardis lose the whistle that opened and closed the door of the rock house?

3. Gaylen’s mission was to poll the people to find out what is most delicious. Who leaves the castle first, Gaylen or Hemlock?

4. How many years long was the first chapter? (Estimate) Explain how you came to that conclusion.

5. How was the Prime Minister’s dictionary different from one that you would use?
SEARCH FOR DELICIOUS
LESSON 2
Sections 6 - 12

1. What is a woldweller?

2. Where did Gaylen get the good luck charm to wear around his neck?

3. Circle the word or words that best describe what happens when Gaylen asks people about their delicious.

   CONFUSION
   CALM
   HAPPY
   HELPFUL
   ANGRY
   FIGHTING

4. What does “tranquil” mean?

5. Put the following people in the order that Gaylen met them.

   ____ Whimsey and Mildew
   ____ Woldweller
   ____ Canto, the minstrel
   ____ The mayor and Medley

6. What does the woldweller think about Gaylen?
1. What was Hemlock telling the people that Gaylen’s Poll was about?

2. Describe what happened when Gaylen arrived at the second village?

3. From whom did Gaylen learn that Ardis had lost her doll?

4. The author said Hemlock was like, “an ill-intentioned wasp.” What does that mean?

5. What is the trade that the three dwarfs make with Gaylen?

6. If you were Gaylen what would you do differently than he has done so far?
1. As Gaylen stares at the picture of the mermaid, what important thing is he missing at first?

2. What part of the world does the dwarf say belongs to people?

3. How many towns does Gaylen have left to poll after leaving the dwarfs’ cave?

4. What does “tinkering” mean?
   “… he sits safe in the castle tinkering with that sill dictionary.”

5. Put the following events in the order that they happened.
   ____ Shepherd boy teases him
   ____ He leaves the dwarves’ cave
   ____ Gaylen heard the men plotting
   ____ People threw food at him

6. In this section why didn’t Gaylen like people?
1. Why didn't Gaylen give Ardis the whistle back immediately when they met?

2. Hemlock thought his plan to win the kingdom for himself was a sure thing except for one person. Who is the one person who could have ruined his plan?

3. What definition did the Prime Minister finally use for delicious?

4. Find out what Hemlock means. Why would the author have chosen Hemlock as a name for the character in the book?

5. How was the ending of the story like the beginning?

6. How are you and Gaylen alike? How are you different?
LESSON 1
1. Some examples at the beginning of the story that told the reader that the story was not realistic was the reference to dwarfs, mermaids, and woldwellers.
2. Ardis lost the whistle that opened the rock house because she left it on a rock while she played in the lake. A man at the lake saw it and decided to keep it.
3. Hemlock is the first to live the castle.
4. The time between the prologue and the first chapter was hundreds of years. The reason for that time frame is because so many changes had happened.
5. The Prime minister’s dictionary is different because he uses examples of the words instead of definitions.

LESSON 2
1. A Woldweller is a creature that lives all alone up in a tree in the forest. A woldweller is very old and very wise.
2. Canto the minstrel gave Galen the good luck charm.
3. CONFUSION ANGRY FIGHTING should be circled.
4. Tranquil means free from disturbance or stress.
5. The correct order is 4, 2, 3, and 1.
6. Answers will vary. The woldweller seems to think all humans are of little importance.

LESSON 3
1. Hemlock told the people that after the poll the king would cut out certain foods and tell the people what they could or couldn’t eat.
2. At the second village the people lined up at first but it quickly turned into a fight and Galen had to ride away.
3. Galen learned about Ardis while staying with an old woman who had a talking crow. The crow named Maunder told the story or Ardis.
4. Answers will vary but a wasp is bad enough one with bad intentions could get a person really upset.
5. Gaylen gave the dwarfs three apples in exchange for them making a new horseshoe for Marrow.
6. Answers will vary.
LESSON 4
1. When Gaylen first stares at the picture of the mermaid he doesn’t the gray stone key next to her that is like the one around his neck.
2. The dwarfs say the NOTHING belongs to people.
3. Gaylen has 2 more towns to poll after leaving the dwarfs’ cave.
4. Tinkering means to work or busy oneself aimlessly.
5. The correct order is 2, 1, 4, and 3.
6. Answers may vary. Gaylen was discouraged that people wouldn’t believe the truth when he told them. He also didn’t like that they threw things at him.

LESSON 5
1. Gaylen didn’t give Ardis her whistle back immediately because he wanted her to promise to help him first by loosening the stones in the dam.
2. Hemlock was afraid that Ardis would ruin his plans.
3. The Prime Minister finally used Delicious is a drink of water when you are very, very thirsty.
4. Hemlock is a poisonous plant. Answers will vary as to why the author named a character Hemlock. In this story Hemlock tries to poison peoples’ minds. He is also the bad character like hemlock is bad.
5. The ending is like the beginning because the king and queen are again arguing about the prime minister’s latest word.